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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.24

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 4, 5, 7 and 8 of draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.24, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that three posts (one Professional at the P-3 level and two General Service (Other level)) will be established and added to the structure of the Centre, and funded from the regular budget, as recommended by the Consultative Mechanism;

(b) Decide that the operating costs of the Centre will be funded from the regular budget;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of peace, security and development, and to continue to provide assistance towards stabilizing the financial situation of the Centre.

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II. Relationship of the request to the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the draft resolution relate to (a) subprogramme 5, Regional disarmament of programme 3 of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and (b) section 4, Disarmament of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.[2] There would not be any modifications to the programme of work.

III. Estimated resource requirements

3. The estimated costs of the establishment of three posts and related operating costs of the Centre, as reflected in draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.24, for the biennium 2008-2009 would amount to $322,300 net ($360,200 gross).

4. These resources would cover the salaries and common staff costs for one Professional post at the P-3 level and two General Service (Other level) staff ($235,800), as well as general operating expenses ($86,500).

IV. Potential for absorption

5. No provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 in relation to the activities that would be decided under operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.24. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.

6. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 would continue to provide for one P-5 post of Director of the Regional Centre at Lomé. The implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution, regarding the Secretary-General's provision of support to the Regional Centre, facilitation of closer cooperation between the Centre and the African Union and provision of assistance towards stabilizing the financial situation of the Centre, would continue to be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

7. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to paragraph 67 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[3] which indicates that the use of the phrase "within existing resources" or similar language in resolutions has a negative

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

[2] A/62/6 (Sect. 4) and Corr.1.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7).

impact on the implementation of activities. Therefore, efforts should be made to avoid the use of this phrase in resolutions and decisions.

V. Action required by the General Assembly

8. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.24, an additional provision amounting to $360,200 (before recosting) would be required over and above the level of resources proposed under section 4, Disarmament ($322,300) and section 35, Staff assessment ($37,900), to be offset by the same amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**